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To the Owners of Barges trading upon the River Severn,
and the persons employed in navigating them.

A C A U T I O N.

PERSONS engaged in the intended New Canal from Stourbridge to Worcester take great pains to point out to you the inconveniences which will arise from Weirs across the River, and Locks by the side of them, and in some states of the water there will be some inconveniencies.

But their design is to prevent your seeing the much-greater inconveniencies that you must suffer from the New Canal.

If by your opposition you could prevent the improvement of the River, and the making of the New Canal as well, it might perhaps answer your purpose, but preventing the Locks only will ruin you; of two evils therefore chuse the least: The New Canal it is supposed will take place, and the business done upon it will of course lessen your trade, as your Barges cannot be navigated on it: the coals brought down it in dry seasons will be conveyed into deep water below Worcester, and supply the markets when the Barges above cannot come down.

There is a scheme also in contemplation for a communication with the Avon, by another Cut from the New Canal, so that the trade for coals upon the River Severn, which at present supplies those markets, will be entirely destroyed.

Merchandise to Birmingham will in dry seasons, and may in general, be conveyed up the New Canal, in which you can have no share; and great numbers of the men now employed in working and halling Barges must starve, because the Boats on the New Canal will be drawn by Horses, whereas the present method of halling by men will be continued on the Severn.

It follows, therefore, that a principal part of the trade upon the River Severn, and nearly the whole of the Shropshire Coal trade will be destroyed, and of course your vessels rendered useless.

To prevent this, to preserve your property, and maintain the customary trade, it is your interest to petition for the Improvement of the River, for by so doing you must secure an equal share of the business at least, and perhaps the whole, for if leave be given for improving the River, the new schemers will not be fond of trying hazardous experiments.

Consider in time, therefore, your own interest, and encourage the improvement of the River as a matter of necessity now, on which all your employment depends, whereas if the New Canal had not been intended, you might have been indifferent whether the River was improved or not, as the trade could not go into another Channel.

Surveyor Worcester
A FRIEND to the RIVER SEVERN.

Geo. Young